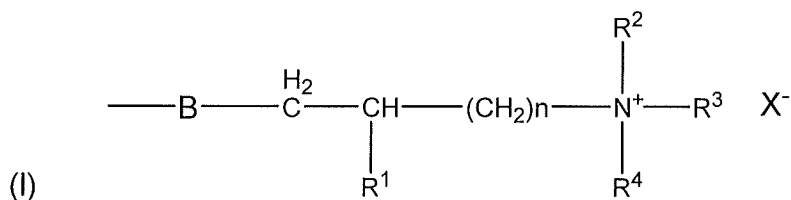


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant Application.

1. (Previously Presented) A paper comprising a filler content of above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper and a cellulose ether having a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.

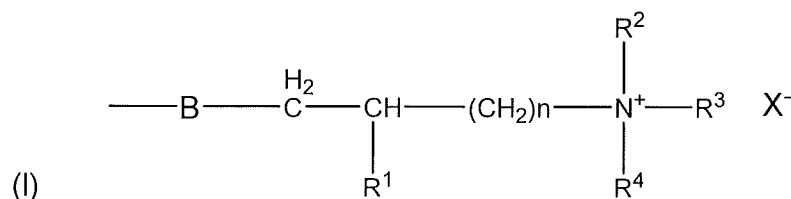
2. (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 is H or OH, R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are the same or different and are selected from $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_{24}$ aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$ aralkyl, $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$ alkaryl, $\text{C}_3\text{--C}_{24}$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{--C}_{24}$ alkoxyalkyl, and $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$ alkoxyaryl groups, or R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C₂-C₆ acyl or a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) A method of making paper comprising:
 adding the cellulose ether of claim 1 to an aqueous paper stock
 adding a filler to said stock;
 removing water from said stock; and
 drying said stock;
 wherein the paper has a filler content above 20 wt% based on the total weight of
 the paper.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said quaternary
 ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 is H or OH, R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are the same or different and are selected from C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_7 - C_{24} aralkyl, C_7 - C_{24} alkaryl, C_3 - C_{24} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkoxyalkyl, and C_7 - C_{24} alkoxyaryl groups, or R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C_2 - C_6 acyl or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

14. (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the paper has a filler content about 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.